

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1 and 3-14 are pending, with claims 9-12 withdrawn from consideration. Claim 13 is amended to address a claim objection and a rejection under 35 USC 112.

No new matter is added to the application by this Amendment. The features set forth in amended claim 13 find support within the present specification, as originally filed, at for example, paragraphs [0030] and [0047] of US Patent Publication No. 2007/0237836 (hereinafter "the 836 publication") for the present application.

Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

### **I. Claim Objection**

Claim 13 was objected to for alleged informalities because the claim recites the term "joint" which should allegedly read "joining". This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 was amended to replace the term "joint" with the term "joining" as suggested by the Patent Office. Applicants submit that amended claim 13 overcomes this objection.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the claim objection.

### **II. Rejection Under 35 USC 112**

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the written description requirement. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 13 was amended to replace the term "joint" with the term "joining". As

set forth above, paragraphs [0030] and [0047] of the 936 publication for the present application discuss use of laminating adhesives to form an assembly and/or a full-area connection of outer layers A, and optionally B, and layer C. Applicants submit that amended claim 13 complies with the written description requirement in accordance with 35 USC 112, first paragraph, and overcomes this rejection.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 USC 112, first paragraph.

### **III. Rejection Under 35 USC 103**

Claims 1, 3-8, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over US Patent Publication 2005/0180704 to Terry et al. (hereinafter "Terry"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The Patent Office alleges that each and every feature of the foregoing claims would have been obvious to a skilled artisan, at the time of the invention, in view of the teachings of Terry. Applicants respectfully disagree with the allegations by the Patent Office as set forth in the Office Action.

Applicants would like to take this opportunity to address the allegation by the Patent Office that Terry qualifies as a 35 USC 102(b) reference as set forth in page 3 of the previous July 21, 2010 Office. Applicants respectfully disagree with this allegation by the Patent Office.

Terry is not a prior art reference to the present application under 35 USC 102(a) or 102(b) because Terry was published on August 18, 2005 which is after the PCT filing date of March 4, 2005 for the present application. At best, Terry may be a prior art reference to the present application under 35 USC 102(e) having an earliest filing date of February 17, 2004 (i.e., Terry's US provisional application filing date).

Applicants also point out that Terry is no longer pending and was abandoned on December 31, 2007 for failure to respond to an outstanding Office Action.

The accompanying declaration under Rule 131 and annexed exhibit establish that Applicants' invention was made prior to February 17, 2004.

Applicants' invention was therefore completed prior to the effective date of Terry, and Terry is not an effective reference against the present claims.

The rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 13 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Terry should therefore now be withdrawn.

#### **IV. Rejoinder**

Applicants submit that upon allowance of claims 1, 3-8 and 12-14, claims 9-12 should be rejoined with the application and similarly allowed.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement is respectfully requested.

#### **V. Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1 and 3-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Early and favorable action is earnestly solicited.

**CONDITIONAL PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME**

If entry and consideration of the amendments above requires an extension of time, Applicants respectfully request that this be considered a petition therefor. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee(s) due in this connection to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

**ADDITIONAL FEE**

Please charge any insufficiency of fees, or credit any excess, to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:  
Declaration under 37 C.F.R. §1.131 and Exhibits A-C